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ABSTRACT

Research on effective schools has identified a safe and orderly environment as a prerequisite for academic success, but in recent years educators and policy makers have expressed concern about possible increases in the incidence of school-related criminal behavior. Between 1976 and 1991, blacks were more likely to be threatened, and more likely to be injured, with a weapon in school than whites, with approximately 1 in 10 black high school seniors reporting being injured with a weapon in school. The most frequent type of victimization in high school was having had something stolen (approximately 4 in 10 overall). Nearly one in four reported that their property had been deliberately damaged or that they had been threatened without a weapon. A table gives percentages of high school seniors reporting being victimized in school by type of victimization and by race. Two figures illustrate trends in victimization with and without weapons. (SLD)

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CRIME IN THE SCHOOLS

National Center for Education Statistics
Indicator of the Month, February 1994

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INDICATOR MONTH

NATIONAL CENTER FOR EDUCATION STATISTICS

Crime in the schools

February 1994

Research on effective schools has identified a safe and orderly environment as a prerequisite for promoting student academic success. Lack of school safety can reduce school effectiveness, inhibit student learning, and place students who are already at risk for school failure for other reasons in further jeopardy. In recent years, educators and policymakers have voiced growing concern about possible increases in the incidences of school-related criminal behavior.

- **Between 1976 and 1991, blacks were both more likely to be theatened with and more likely to be injured with a weapon in school than whites. In 1991, for example, about 1 in 10 black and about 1 in 19 white high school seniors reported being injured with a weapon at school. However, there were few other differences in the in-school victimization rates of black and white high school seniors over this period.**
- **For blacks, in most crime categories, there was little increase in the victimization rate between 1976 and 1991, except for something being stolen. In most crime categories whites did experience some increase in victimization.**
- **In 1991, of those high school seniors reporting being victimized, the most frequently reported type of victimization was having had something stolen (approximately 4 in 10). The least frequently reported type of victimization was having been injured with a weapon (nearly 1 in 19). About 1 in 4 reported that their property had been deliberately damaged or that they were threatened without a weapon.**

Percentage of high school seniors reporting being victimized in school, by type of victimization, and by race/ethnicity: 1976–1991

	Something stolen from you[1]		Property deliberately damaged		Injured you with a weapon[2]		Threatened you with a weapon[2]		Injured you without a weapon[2]		Threatened you without a weapon[2]	
Year	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black	White	Black
1976	38.9	35.9	25.1	30.1	5.0	7.8	11.4	16.3	13.2	14.3	21.2	24.2
1977	40.4	32.8	24.3	21.0	4.0	8.1	11.0	19.7	10.6	11.4	20.2	24.2
1978	38.8	32.4	25.7	21.2	3.9	7.2	11.2	13.3	11.5	14.4	20.4	17.5
1979	34.6	27.2	24.5	20.8	4.0	8.1	11.1	16.5	11.7	9.8	20.3	17.9
1980	34.3	33.1	25.3	21.9	3.5	9.9	9.5	17.8	10.3	14.9	19.0	20.0
1981	40.1	39.2	30.4	29.8	5.1	13.4	13.4	23.7	13.8	19.1	23.6	25.0
1982	37.9	42.0	25.6	25.4	4.2	4.5	11.1	15.9	11.8	11.7	21.3	19.5
1983	39.4	39.2	25.0	23.1	4.3	5.6	11.9	14.8	13.4	13.2	23.9	24.5
1984	38.4	35.3	24.3	21.8	3.2	6.0	10.9	16.7	12.1	13.3	23.0	24.4
1985	39.3	35.2	26.6	28.0	5.4	8.9	11.6	22.6	13.6	18.2	24.5	25.2
1986	41.1	36.3	25.7	24.5	4.9	6.9	12.6	15.7	14.5	12.8	25.7	22.7
1987	42.1	39.4	27.0	25.0	4.4	5.6	11.2	17.5	15.4	15.4	25.4	20.2
1988	41.4	46.6	27.4	25.8	3.9	9.0	11.3	22.2	13.5	16.6	24.3	27.7
1989	39.4	46.4	26.0	28.9	4.9	11.3	12.0	24.1	13.7	17.8	24.5	21.0
1990	41.6	42.2	28.9	26.1	4.6	10.0	12.0	16.0	13.6	10.0	26.1	21.7
1991	41.4	44.3	28.4	24.6	5.3	9.6	15.7	20.2	15.4	17.1	26.5	27.5

[1] The response category "something stolen from you" is comprised of two separate questions: 1) "Has something of yours (worth under $50) been stolen?", and 2) "Has something of yours (worth over $50) been stolen?" The responses to both questions have been collapsed in this category.

[2] The weapons category includes: knife, gun or club. The question was: "Has someone injured you with (or without) a weapon (like a Knife, Gun or Club)?"

NOTE: A regression analysis was used to determine trends over time between the races. Therefore, individual year differences between the races might be statistically different, while the trend over time is not.

SOURCE: University of Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future*.

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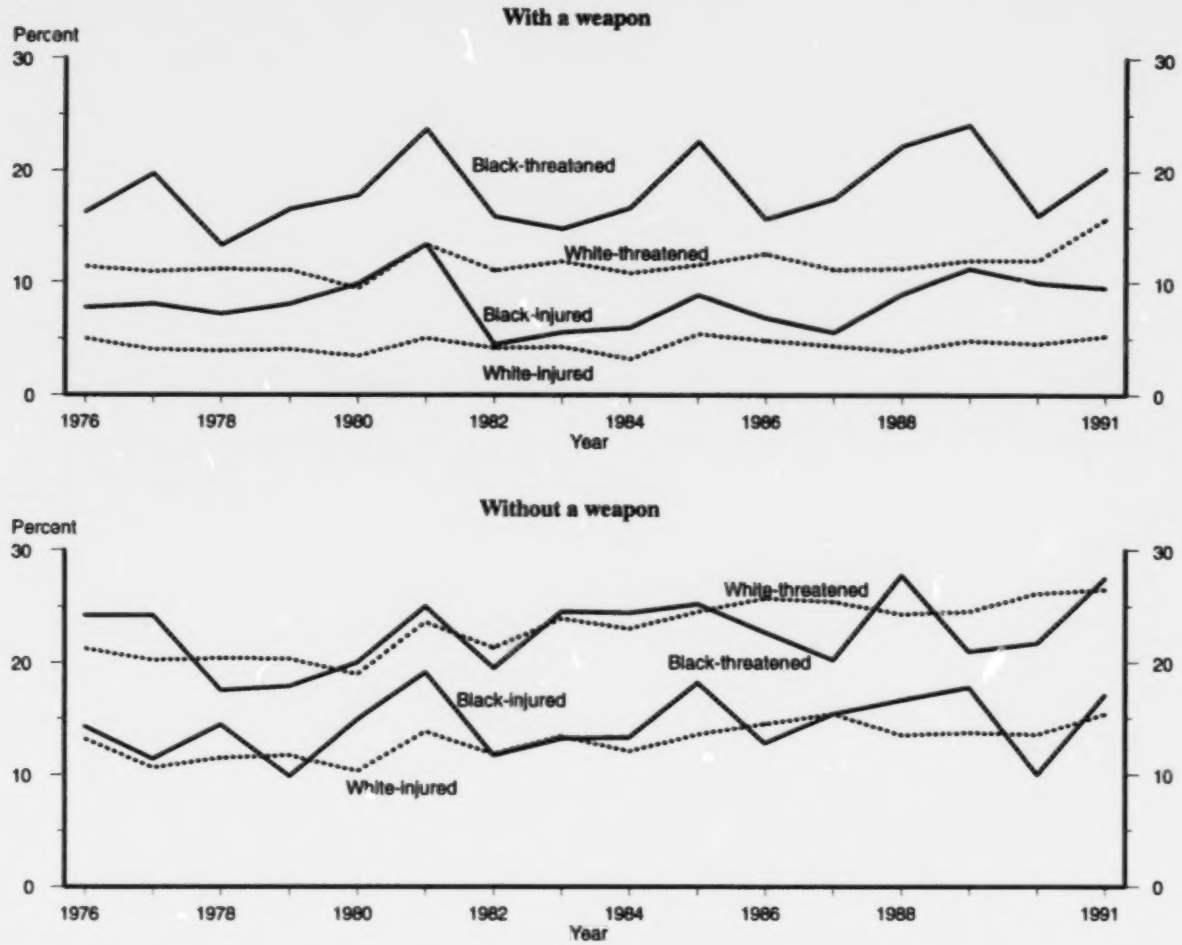
Percentage of high school seniors reporting being victimized in school, by race/ethnicity: 1976–1991



SOURCE: University of Michigan, Survey Research Center, Institute for Social Research, *Monitoring the Future*, unpublished tabulations.

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